Cancellation of Flights

1923. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the occasional cancellation of flight Nos. IC-221, 222 between Bagdogra-Dumdum and flight Nos. IC 489, 479 and IC 490 between Dibrugarh-Delhi and Guwahati-Delhi via Bagdogra is causing great hardships and financial loss to the passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons for the cancellation and irregularities on these routes; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to overcome such problems in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Out of a total of 619 scheduled flights in these sectors during January-June, 1991, only nine flights were cancelled. Every effort is made by Indian Airlines to minimise the hardships caused to passengers due to cancellation of flights.

(b) Out of the nine flights cancelled during the period January-June, 1991, one was due to maintenance and handling, and three were due to weather, airport facilities and miscellaneous reasons. The remaining five flights were cancelled due to consequential reasons. Consequential delays take place when an aircraft gets delayed in the initial stages and that aircraft has to operate in subsequent sectors.

(c) The following measures have been taken by Indian Airlines in this regard:

Scheduling of aircraft matching with traffic demand;

Close monitoring of On-Time performance;

More time for maintenance of aircraft;

Rationalisation of Schedule so as to provide a cushion between flights;

Review of action taken for rectification of snags.

[Translation]

Supply of Natural Gas at Cheaper rates in Gujarat

1924. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large gas reserves have been found at Ankleshwar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make available this gas to the local people at cheaper rates;

(c) if so, when and at what rates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Ankleshwar fields have been on production since 1961. The gas is being made available as per rates fixed from to time.

New Airport at Bharuch, Gujarat

1925. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new airport in Bharuch district of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.